CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

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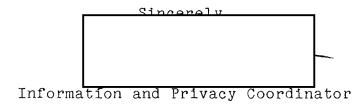
20 MAR 1981

Dear Professor van der Merwe:

This is in response to your letter of 13 March 1981 in which you inquired about the status of your appeal.

We are continuing to process your Freedom of Information Act request which you appealed in your letter dated 7 August 1980. As you may know, in order to process the appeals we receive in an equitable manner, we have adopted the policy of handling the appeals on a first-received, first-out basis. To date, this Agency has a backlog of about 300 of these appeals. Because the number and complexity of documents vary in each case, we are unable to give you a definite date as to exactly when you can expect to receive a response from us. Be assured, however, that your appeal is being processed as quickly as possible under the circumstances and that we will advise you of the results as soon as our reviews have been completed.

We would like to take this opportunity to apologize for any inconvenience this unavoidable delay may have caused and to thank you for your continued patience and understanding.



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